



Los Angeles Area  
Chamber of Commerce

May 6, 2008

Delores Brown  
Chief Office of Environmental Compliance  
California Department of Water Resources  
P.O. 942836,  
Sacramento, CA 94236

RE: Bay Delta Conservation Plan

Dear Ms. Brown:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, thank you for the opportunity to participate in this historic process to create a better future for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan is at a critical initial "scoping" stage that shapes the breadth of issues and alternatives that will undergo the exhaustive analysis that is required under state and federal environmental laws. This meeting marks an opportunity for interested parties in the Southern California to provide input into the scoping process.

The Chamber represents more than 1,600 members with more than 722,000 employees. Our continued economic vitality is linked to a reliable, high-quality water supply. That will require a successful plan in the Delta that results in restoration of ecosystem and improvements to the water system.

With that in mind, the Chamber wishes to reinforce some specific needs and objectives of this BDCP process:


- The BDCP must stick to its stated goal of placing the needs of the future Delta ecosystem and that of the water systems on equal footing. A balanced approach is the only reasonable framework for a successful solution.
- Both quantity and quality are important needs of the future water system. Urban Southern California's stated goal is to maintain, and not to increase, State Water Project

supplies passing through the Delta. A source that is low in bromides and organic compounds will remain necessary in order to successfully blend State Water Project water with other Southern California supplies.

- Reliability cannot be achieved without the BDCP addressing rising sea levels in the Delta and the rising risk of catastrophic levee failures due to flooding or seismic events. The BDCP must address all of the major challenges to both the water system and the ecosystem.
- The strategy to restore the estuary should study ways to separate the natural tidal fluctuations of the ecosystem from the movements of the water system. The state economy and the Delta environment do not share the same clock. A full analysis of conveyance alternatives is absolutely necessary in order to provide a foundation of fact necessary for historic change in the Delta.

There is heightened acknowledgement throughout Southern California about the need to conserve and to the challenges of maintaining a reliable water system in the face of historic environmental problems in the Delta. Time is of the essence.

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan must stick to its schedule so that a comprehensive plan is in place by the end of 2010. Thank you again for holding this important meeting in Los Angeles today.



Gary Toebben  
President & CEO